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EXHIBIT A

Subject:

X-Unix-From: Lynette.Norris@corp.sun.com Fri Jul 16 10:00:17 1999
X-BadHeader: Fri Jul 16 10:00:17 1999
Date: Fri, 16 Jul 1999 10:17:37 -0700 (PDT)
From: Lynette Norris <Lynette.Norris@corp.sun.com>
Subject: P4249 - Invention Disclosure - Giles
To: thomas.giles@eng.sun.com
Cc: leo.hejza@eng.sun.com, scott.hauser@eng.sun.com, kathy.broecker@eng.sun.com, jij

Thomas,

Here's a copy of your disclosure with the Sun reference number assigned to it (P4249). Please use this reference number when referring to this matter in the future. Should you have questions regarding the status of this disclosure, please contact your Managing Sun Attorney (listed below). Questions regarding any patent bonuses should be directed to Kristine Bombaci, Awards Program Coordinator, x60821. Thank you again for submitting this disclosure!

Primary Sun Atty: Ken Olsen
Managing Sun Attorney: Robert "Scott" Hauser

Kristine:

Approved for bonus?
\$250 each
1) Thomas Giles
2) Leo Hejza

Note to the inventor(s): If approved, the bonus transaction will be processed two weeks from today. This means that your bonus may not show up until the pay period after the processing date.

GILES, THOMAS
HEJZA, LEO

thomas.giles@Eng
leo.hejza@Eng

UMPK02-228 x49676
UMPK02-228 x49389

----- Begin Forwarded Message -----

Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1999 16:20:29 -0700 (PDT)
From: "tgiles@eng" <nobody@patents.Corp.Sun.COM>
To: undisclosed-recipients:;@patents.Corp.Sun.COM

NEW INVENTION DISCLOSURE BY Tom Giles!
(tgiles@eng)

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

Here is your copy of the new Invention Disclosure that you have just submitted. We will contact you shortly about preparing the patent application, and about your award, upon approval of the disclosure.

Thank you, Tom Giles, for submitting this disclosure!!

Patent/Invention Disclosure Form -- generated by the SunWeb
Patent Disclosure Form, v. 2.0, a link for which can be found at:

<http://patents.corp>

This is a new disclosure from CTO/SunLabs: Networking & Security (Jeff
Rulifson).

Opco: SunLabs

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1. TITLE: Sever Node

This invention relates primarily to (hardware or software): **HARDWARE**

2. BACKGROUND AND RELATED ART

A. The technical problem addressed by the invention is as follows:

A method and apparatus for providing a highly available compute system which appears as a unified entity to external users yet provides a number of services. The system contains an arbitrary number of independent compute nodes interconnected through a multiplicity of links which provide both multiple paths for traffic distribution as well as fault tolerance if one or more of the links or nodes should fail. Traffic entering the system is distributed on a node by node basis therefore providing the ability to make rapid decisions based on link traffic and compute load of adjacent nodes. Each node in the system contains a compute function as well as the ability to switch, route and balance load through a multiplicity of links which interconnect the nodes.

This system also provides that nodes can be transparently added or taken out of service as demand requires without interruption of service. Computing, switching, routing and load balancing are distributed and the system can be administered and monitored centrally. Computing nodes can be implemented as small devices with one or two CPUs or as larger multi CPU devices.

With switching, routing and load balancing integrated into each node the system requires much less physical space as compared to systems requiring separate devices to provide these functions.

One implementation of the system is outlined in the attached "Server Node Proposal" document

Assignee: Sun Microsystems
Inventors: Ariel Hendel, Leo Hejza, Tom Giles
6/25/99

Sun Confidential NEED TO KNOW only

B. The Closest Related Art is described as follows:

United States Patent 5,841,775
Huang
November 24, 1998

Scalable switching network

3. DRAWING(S)

Drawings for this invention are AVAILABLE.

Comments about providing drawings:

Proposal sent

4. WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

The invention is described as follows (stressing the problems solved, and the way that the invention solves the problems):

Proposal sent

5. CONCEPTION OF INVENTION

Date of conception: 4/23/99

Date of first written description: 4/23/99

6. REDUCTION TO PRACTICE

Has the invention been reduced to practice? No.

Comments, if any, on conception of invention and/or first written description:

7. INVENTOR(S)

INVENTOR 1:

Name: Thomas E Giles
Address: 32759 Downieville St., Union City, 94587.
Citizenship: USA

INVENTOR 2:

Name: Leo Hejza
Address: 1146 Quince Ave., Sunnyvale, Ca. 94087
Citizenship: USA

INVENTOR 3:

Name: Raghvendra Singh
Address: 707 Continental Circle #1236, Mountain View
CA 94040
Citizenship: India

INVENTOR 4:

Name:
Address:
Citizenship:

INVENTOR 5:

Name:
Address:
Citizenship:

COMMENTS on inventors or inventorship:

8. OPCO

The opco is: SunLabs

8A. SMCC Bus.Org.

The SMCC bus.org. is: CTO/SunLabs: Networking & Security (Jeff Rulifson)

8B. SMCC Technical Category

The SMCC Technical Category is:

9. DEPARTMENT, etc.

Department: Pacsys
Manager: Andy Poggio
Project: Prowler
Product(s):

10. DATES OF PRODUCT TESTING AND RELEASE

Alpha Testing: June 2000

Beta Testing:

General release or sale:

COMMENTS on product testing and release:

P0 Protos to Power On 8/99
Product Transfer to BU 12/99
P1 Protos to Power On 2/00

11. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

Has there been any disclosure of the invention? YES

12. INTERNAL DISCLOSURE(S)

First disclosure date (internal at Sun): 4/23/99

Name of first discloser at Sun: SMI MegaSPARC Team

COMMENTS about first internal disclosure:

Working with team on CPU for Networking
Also have made several presentations to different groups
at Sun

13. ARTICLE(S)

Have any articles been published? NO

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DETAILS about publication of article(s):

14. ADVERTISEMENTS, PRESS RELEASES AND PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Any ads, press releases or product announcements? NO

DETAILS about any ads, press releases and product announcements:

15. OUTSIDE DISCLOSURE(S)

Have there been any disclosures outside Sun? NO

Were all outside disclosures under NDA? No

DETAILS about any disclosures outside Sun:

16. TRADE SHOWS AND CONFERENCES

Are there any upcoming trade shows or conferences? YES

DETAILS about upcoming trade shows and/or conferences:

We are meeting with Inktomi on Monday 7/19/99

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY INVENTOR:

This invention disclosure was submitted by Tom Giles, whose email address is:
tgiles@eng

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: webcache.ebay.sun.com
Remote IP address: 129.150.191.32

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